



YOUR MONEY MATTERS



Department of the Treasury Bureau of Engraving and Printing: The U.S. Government's Security Printer

- Since October 1, 1877, all United States currency has been printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, which started out as a six-person operation using steam powered presses in the Department of Treasury's basement.
- Now 1,800 Bureau employees occupy 25 acres of floor space in two Washington, D.C. buildings flanking 14th Street. Currency and stamps are designed, engraved, and printed 24 hours a day on 30 high-speed presses. An additional 700 Bureau employees are at the Western Currency Facility in Fort Worth, Texas, where currency is printed 16 hours a day, 5 days a week on 10 high-speed presses.
- In 1995, at a cost of 3.8 cents each, over 9 billion notes worth about \$129 billion will be produced for circulation by the Federal Reserve System. Ninety-five percent will replace unfit notes and five percent will support economic growth. At any one time, \$200 million in notes may be in production.
- Notes currently produced are the \$1 (45 percent of production time), \$5 and \$10 (12 percent each), \$20 (26 percent), \$50 (2 percent), and \$100 (3 percent).
- The Bureau also prints White House invitations and some 500 engraved items, such as visa counterfoils, naturalization documents, commissions, and certificates for almost 75 Federal departments and agencies.

Tours

- The Bureau of Engraving and Printing is one of the most popular tourist stops in Washington—over 700,000 visit the printing facility each year.
- Free 20-minute guided tours are offered Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., except for Federal holidays and the week between Christmas and New Year's. Tours start on Raoul Wallenberg Place (formerly 15th Street). During the summer months (June-August) afternoon tours are given from 4 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- Visitors can see press runs of 32-note currency sheets, examiners overseeing production to ensure high-quality notes, the application of Federal Reserve and Treasury seals and 4,000 note "bricks" being readied for distribution to Federal Reserve Banks.
- Beginning in the fall of 1995, tours of postage stamp production also can be taken.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY 1500 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20220

Visitors Center

- At the Visitors Center, history, production, and counterfeit exhibits showcase interesting information about United States currency.
- Many unique items can be purchased at the sales counter. Items include uncut currency sheets of 32, 16, or 4 \$1 notes; \$150 worth of shredded currency in plastic bags that are sold for \$1; engraved collectors' prints; souvenir cards; and Department of the Interior Duck Stamps.

Mail Order Sales

- Persons wishing to receive notes on new Bureau products or to order by mail can write: Mail Order Sales, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, 14th and C Streets, S.W., Room 513-M, Washington, D.C. 20228. Credit card purchases of Bureau products are available by calling (202) 874-3316, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.